

WILSON TO TURN RAILWAYS OVER NEXT MARCH

Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—Control and operation of the nation's railroads assumed by the government as a war measure two years ago will revert to the owners next March, unless congress fixes an earlier date.

President Wilson, through a proclamation issued last night fixing March 1 as the date of the return, put at rest speculation as to the time of the handing back of the roads. The president in an address to congress last May said he intended to turn back the roads at the end of the present year.

By another proclamation, issued with that in regard to the railroads, the president ordered the dissolution March 1 of the American Railway Express company, which was formed July 1, 1918, under government direction by consolidation of the Adams, American, Well Fargo and Southern companies.

Extension by two months of the announced time for return of the railroads was made, said a statement from the white house accompanying the proclamation, because congress had not enacted legislation to meet conditions incident to the change in control and operation.

Leaders in congress generally expressed approval of the president's action.

In announcing these two decisions of the president, secretary Tumulty issued the following statement:

"Last May in his message to congress the president announced that the railroads would be handed over to their owners at the end of this calendar year. It is now necessary to act by issuing the proclamation. In the present circumstances, no agreement having yet been reached by the two houses of congress in respect to legislation on the subject, it becomes necessary in the public interest to allow a reasonable time to elapse before the issuing of the proclamation and the date of its actually taking effect.

"The president is advised that the railroads and express companies are not organized to make it possible for them to receive and manage their properties if actually turned over to them on December 31 and, if this were done it would raise financial and legal complications of a serious character.

"The railroad and express companies should be given ample opportunity to adequately prepare for the resumption of their business under the control and management of their own stockholders, directors and officers. Therefore, the transfer of possession back to the railroad companies will become effective at 12:01 a. m., March 1, 1920."

FORMER TUCUMCARI BOY DECORATED FOR BRAVERY

Carroll Farmer, of Lodge No. 788, B. of R. T., Tucumcari, was killed in action between October 8 and 10, near St. Etienne, France, and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for bravery. The medal was presented to his brother, A. G. Farmer.

Corporal Farmer was a member of El Paso's national guard company, which became Company A, 141st Infantry. The citation follows:

"With the approbation of the commander in chief of the American expeditionary forces in France, the marshal of France, the commander in chief of the French armies of the east, cities in the order of the division:

Corporal Carroll Farmer, No. 1, 486,996, Company A, 141st Regiment, Infantry, Near St. Etienne, October 8-10, 1918, in spite of enemy fire, he voluntarily advanced, outflanking machine gun nests, capturing prisoners and destroying enemy positions as he advanced. Killed during action."

The citation is signed by General Petain.

Corporal Farmer joined Company A upon the outbreak of the war. Prior to that time he had been in the employ of the El Paso & Southwestern Railway. He was well and favorably known through the southwest, having worked out of Tucumcari as brakeman for several years and is sadly missed by all the railroad men of this city. He bore the reputation of having no bad habits, and was an exemplary young man.

WETS ASSAIL VALIDITY OF U. S. DRY AMENDMENT

Newark, N. J., Dec. 25.—The constitutionality of the federal prohibition amendment will be challenged again in the United States supreme court when Gov. E. Lee Edwards takes office it became known today. After discussing his inaugural address with Democratic legislators and leaders, Mr. Edwards stated he would direct the attorney general McCran to start proceedings and pending decision in the high court a bill declaring beer and light wines non-intoxicating and saleable in New Jersey would be introduced.

Another legal attack on prohibition

was launched yesterday at Trenton, when Elihu Root, as chief counsel for Christian Feigenbaum, a brewing corporation, filed a bill of complaint in the United States district court for an injunction restraining United States District Attorney Bodine and Charles Duffy, collector of internal revenue, from enforcing the prohibition law. The bill declares that both the Volstead act and the eighteenth amendment are unconstitutional.

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN TO ADVERTISE TUCUMCARI

The Santa Fe New Mexican is devoting its rotogravure section each Sunday to advertising the various localities and towns of the state by reproducing scenes from them. The last issue carried pictures of Raton and vicinity and shows that city to be one of the most thriving in the state. The issue of January 4 has been set aside for Tucumcari and a number of new cuts will be used in showing Tucumcari. Lack of time makes it necessary to omit a number of pictures of our best residences and business buildings, as well as scenes in this county, but the proprietors of The New Mexican are to be congratulated on their public-spiritedness as the cost to the company will be considerable while the only charge to Tucumcari is for the expense of the cuts and transportation of same. The papers will be on sale at the Edwards News Stand or you may order extra copies direct.

JUDGE LEIB GIVES GOVERNOR MORE CRIMINALS TO PARDON

Raton, Dec. 24.—The winter term of the district court closed here last week and the following prisoners were brought before Judge Leib to be sentenced: Jack Diamond, guilty of inciting revolution against the United States, he was sentenced to serve from five to six years in the penitentiary and fined \$402. William Walker and Paul Harris, two negro boys, guilty of assault with deadly weapons, sentenced to serve one and one-half years each in the penitentiary. Arthur Smart, guilty of murder, sentenced to serve from 25 to 30 years, and Frank Ganish, who was charged with larceny of a six-shooter from a trunk, sentenced to serve one and one-half years in the penitentiary.

DISTRICT ENGINEER RESIGNS

Leslie A. Gillett, state highway engineer, has been selected as secretary of the Western States Highway association. Ira R. Brown, engineer and secretary of the Utah highway commission, is the president.

D. W. Jones, district engineer of district No. 6, which includes Roosevelt, Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe and Quay counties, has resigned to accept the position of secretary of the Clovis Chamber of Commerce on January 1. No successor has been selected as yet by State Highway Engineer Gillett.

PRESIDENT BACKS PLAN TO BOOM COMMERCIAL STATUS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—President Wilson signed today the Edge bill authorizing the creation of corporations for the purpose of financing American export trade. The measure was passed just before the Christmas recess of congress.

The passage of the Edge bill by congress followed persistent demands of American commercial interests for more adequate means of boosting the trade with other nations of the globe. It is one of the first steps in the direction of building a gigantic American merchant marine agitated by the Americans as a means of putting the government in a position to take its proper place in world commerce.

SPECIAL SESSION TO VOTE ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The importance of New Mexico ratifying the suffrage amendment in order that a sufficient number of states may have taken such action and that women might participate in the 1920 election is causing much activity and interest among suffrage leaders of the state.

The recent visit of Mrs. Carrie Catt, of the National Suffrage Association, to this state in the interest of an expression of the legislature, will doubtless prove a strong reminder to Gov. Larrazolo that the suffrage amendment is not to be ignored in the call.

Ratification of the suffrage amendment was rejected at the last session of the legislature, the Spanish-American members of the lower house having launched a strong vote against it in spite of the pledged platform of the Republican party of the state, and in spite of Governor Larrazolo's protest against such action.

It is predicted by prominent state politicians that suffrage will be ratified at the coming special session and that New Mexico will extend the ballot to her women.

PRAIRIE FIRE AT SAN JON

San Jon, Dec. 24.—A prairie fire which it is thought was started by the engine of a freight train, started Monday afternoon on the old Duran place and before it was under control burned up nearly to the west side of the town. For a time it looked as if the whole town would be burned, but all the business houses and the schools closed and every one turned out to fight the fire and after considerable hard work got it under control.

CAP BIG GASSER WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING WILD

Amarillo, Texas, Dec. 24.—The Masterson No. 4, of the Amarillo Oil Co., has been capped. This well, one of the largest gassers in the United States, ran wild for two weeks before the drillers could get the 107,000,000 cubic feet of gas under control. The total depth of the well is 1585 feet. The Empire Oil and Gas Co. is negotiating for the gas to pipe it to north Texas cities.

The first gas well completed in this vicinity were gassers. One of these wells is on the Hagood farm and is producing from 1600 feet. It is shut in with a 12-inch casing and rate. The capacity of the well is estimated at 10,000,000 cubic feet daily. In this territory the gas wells have a rock pressure of 480 pounds, which is very high.

Operations are extending into New Mexico. There are 60 wells drilling or producing within 75 miles of Amarillo. Every well completed has at least found a gas production of 3,000,000 cubic feet. Only small traces of oil have been found. Operators believe that the oil is there, but it will take time to locate the pool.

Just now no county in the Panhandle is attracting more attention than Hemphill county. Practically every acre of land in the county has been leased. It has been thoroughly worked over by geologists. Canadian has spudded in a deep test. This well is on the Shaller lands and is being drilled by the Fort Worth-Canadian Oil company. When the well was spudded in the town celebrated. Average in that district is high. One 10-acre tract brought \$900.

SPECIAL SESSION TO TAKE UP TAX MATTERS SOON

At the meeting of County Assessors, and state and county officials held in Santa Fe last week a resolution was drafted asking Governor Larrazolo to incorporate certain tax legislation in his call for a special session of the legislature.

Among the tax matters which will come before the special session in the event it is included in the call, will be the request for a law providing for deputies for each county assessor to facilitate assessment of property.

Such a law it is said would make it possible for a personal visit of a deputy to each property in the county and a proper and equitable levy. Through this personal canvass of the county no property that is eligible to taxation would be omitted and proper valuation would appear upon the rolls.

If the request of the tax commission is granted and the matter comes before the special session, it will doubtless pass.

REDS LEAVE FOR HOME AND CURSE U. S. AS THEY GO

New York, Dec. 22.—The "Soviet Ark" Buford, which sailed for an unnamed Russian port yesterday with 249 radical deportees on board, will be followed before she has an opportunity to land by a second ark's load of "reds," according to the best information obtainable.

It was stated that a second batch of deportees probably would be embarked sometime this week on the government's second drastic step against aliens who have sought to bring about the overthrow of constitutional government. The department of justice has sixty thousand radicals listed. How many of these will follow their "red" leaders on enforced voyages to their home lands has not been made known.

The Buford, which crept out of New York harbor with a heavy guard in the darkness carried Alexander Berkman, and Emma Goldman, two of the most notorious anarchist leaders the United States has ever harbored, together with 247 other radicals of various degrees of "redness." Department of justice agents said the Buford's passenger list comprised virtually the "brains" of the radical movement in the United States.

Sailing orders now in the hands of the master of the "Soviet Ark" delivered to him to be opened 24 hours from this port, will permit him to use his discretion as to what one of the several Russian or Finnish ports his consignment of deported reds may be landed, it was reported here today. The flexibility of these orders it was said, was provided so that the captain may be able to meet unforeseen conditions of ice and bad weather or possible refusal of officials at any one port to permit Emma Goldman, Alex Berkman and the others to land.

The supplies on the Buford are sufficient for 60 to 90 days and regardless of the time it takes, the passengers will be landed somewhere.

It also is believed in navy circles here that an escort of one or more destroyers now in North Sea waters, will be provided for the Buford as soon as she leaves the Atlantic. This protection is to minimize the danger of striking a mine and to provide rescue craft should anything happen to the Buford, as well as to support the ship's guards should there be any demonstrations of revenge made against her by those on board or by any friend of the anarchists at the port of embarkation.

Naval officers, familiar with the routes and winter weather conditions in the territory to which the Buford undoubtedly will head, said today that it will be at least three and perhaps four weeks before a landing can be effected.

At New York Dec. 22, led by a woman who declared her husband had been deported to Russia on the "soviet ark" Buford, a mob of 150 "reds" at-

tacked the entrance to the Ellis Island ferry in an effort to reach fellow radicals still awaiting deportation. A riot call was turned in before the police could restore order.

Twenty-two anarchists remained at Ellis Island awaiting deportation. They will be sent to Russia with others from Detroit and Chicago whom the department of labor was unable to have transported to New York in time to sail on the Buford. Arrangements for the departure of the next "Soviet Ark" have not been completed according to Byron H. Uhl, acting commissioner at the island.

A few married anarchists are held in various cities awaiting the decision of the authorities as to whether to send their families with them. No anarchist of whose marriage there was official record was sent on the Buford; but eight of them had requested that their sweethearts be sent on the ship with them.

CONSTRUCTION WORK AT RE- FINERY PROGRESSES NICELY

The Peco Producing & Refining Co. has twenty-eight men at work on the various buildings and the erection of the six tanks now on the ground. Two 500-barrel and one 1500 barrel tanks are already up and the others will soon be ready. The boilers and engine and other machinery have been bought and are expected to arrive at any time. Mr. Woolsey, the president of the company is personally looking after the construction but is following orders given by an expert refinery man, whom he knows to be A. L. Unless something unforeseen happens the refinery in Tucumcari, the first in the state, will be a success from every point of view.

ATTENTION EX-SERVICE MEN!

Chapter 165 of the New Mexico Session Laws, 1919, reads as follows:

"The property not to exceed two thousand dollars in actual value, and poll tax, of every resident of this state who has served in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States in time of war and who has been discharged therefrom by any kind of a discharge except dishonorable, or for misconduct, and of the widow of any such soldier or sailor remaining unmarried shall be exempt. It shall be the duty of every assessor annually to make a list of such soldiers, sailors and widows and he shall make a reduction equal to their amount of exemption, the same to be made from the homestead of such soldier or sailor or widow, if he or she shall own a homestead of the value of such exemption, otherwise out of such property as shall be designated and owned by the soldier, sailor or widow. The exemption herein provided shall also extend to property of the wife of any such soldier or sailor, where they are living together and occupying the same as their homestead, and he has not otherwise received the benefits of this act."

Ex-service men desiring to avail themselves of the advantages of this act for the year 1920, and to claim the exemption from taxation thereby allowed may appear before the County Assessor in person and make the required affidavit to prove such military service, or they may make such affidavit before some notary public, justice of the peace or other officer qualified to administer oaths and file such affidavit in regular form with the County Assessor. Exemptions should be claimed at the time taxes are assessed and must be claimed during the months of January and February. The exemption cannot be allowed unless the necessary affidavit is filed with the assessor.

Blanks for affidavits will be furnished by the County Assessor upon request.

B. L. FRANCIS,
Tax Assessor, Quay County, N. M.

COAL OPERATORS MUST LIVE UP TO THEIR AGREEMENT

Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—If the coal operators persist in an attitude of obstruction and refuse to accept the government's plan for a commission to arbitrate the controversy with the miners, and if as a result of that refusal the miners quit work in any large numbers, the full power of the federal government will be used to prosecute the coal operators for conspiracy to curtail production.

The Lever law, which has been used to enjoin the miners from striking, would be used against the operators, but it is confidently hoped by the government that no such extreme course will be necessary.

The interesting thing, however, is that at the department of justice a clear case against the operators is built up, which alleges that if the operators maintain their attitude of refusal to accept a commission of arbitration they would be guilty of having trapped the miners into going back to work and then declining to live up to the spirit of their pledges and written statements.

The operators declare the commission is too small and they have inquired whether the government would agree to an enlargement of the commission. The government will not agree to any such enlargement in advance because to do so would require another session with the miners and all the difficulties of the Indianapolis meeting with the miners would have to be faced.

MORE PROGRESS IN THE TUCUMCARI OIL FIELD; SPUDDING

As announced last week the oil development in Quay county is taking on new life and this week has witnessed some more progress.

The San Jon well will spud Saturday, December 27. The new boiler and engine arrived this week from Amarillo and have been put in place. The drillers from the McGee well southeast of Tucumcari are there ready to start the drill Saturday, and they will remain there until the new men arrive which will be within a few days. They expect to return to the location near Tucumcari and begin work about Monday, January 4. The depth is given at over 3000 feet and Mr. McGee as well as those who understand the oil game, expect to strike the sand before 3300 feet deep. Of course these men may be mistaken, but when the drill stopped work two weeks ago on account of cable shortage they had penetrated dark lime which contained oil saturation which indicates that the chances of striking oil is good. The drillers did not care to go deeper with a worn cable so it was thought best to wait for the new line.

From reliable information it is understood that Rana spudded Sunday but stopped on account of some difficulty which has not been learned here. It is thought they will again be drilling soon and as there is plenty of capital behind the company operating there, no time will be lost in pushing the operations.

Comanche, 26 miles north, spudded a few days ago, but on account of fuel shortage had to shut down. It is reported that plenty of coal and fuel oil is on the ground now and work has been resumed. The men in charge of the work say they will lose no time now and expect to make a good showing next month provided the weather will permit.

Work continues at Endee but no definite time has been set for the spudding in of that well. It is said a rotary will be used for the first fifteen hundred feet when a standard rig will be used to complete the well. Those who claim to know say this is the fastest way to drill and will save several thousand dollars provided there is a sufficient amount of water to operate a rotary. The 10-inch hole will be drilled to a depth of 1500 feet when the standard rig will be used and that size will be continued as far as possible.

Nothing has been heard of the well near Nara Visa for sometime but it will no doubt be going good soon as fuel is obtainable now.

Nothing new has been heard from the Bueyeros well 50 miles north.

With four wells drilling in January it is thought the year 1920 will be one of life in oil circles and it is thought Quay county will soon know whether the prophecy that Quay county will become one of the largest oil fields in the United States is a fact or just a myth. The second payment of lease money will soon become due and those who are overvalued will begin to unload. If the McGee well brings in oil they will be able to meet the payments easily but —

Both the Hereford Oil & Gas No. 1 and the "Nellie Marie" or McDonald well east of town were idle several days the past week, owing to various difficulties. The Hereford people were short of fuel oil and the other crew ran out of some fixings on the piping. Both wells were hammering away on Wednesday, below the 500-foot mark. Hereford Brand.

Some very interesting reports are coming from the United Oil Company test well at the north end of Union county, where the drill is about three thousand feet deep. A gusher is anticipated most any time, according to latest reports.—Clayton News.

NEXT GREAT OIL POOL

The next great oil pool to be tapped will be in either the Amarillo country or Eastern New Mexico, in the opinion of J. N. Thompson, president of the T. & B. Pipe Line Company, and others of a special party who arrived in Fort Worth from those points Monday.

The Omar Oil and Gas Company at Pittsburg, of which Thompson is a director, may acquire 168,000 acres in New Mexico to add to its already extensive producing holdings in Kansas, Wyoming and other states.—Ft. Worth Star-Telegram.

SPECIAL SESSION POSTPONED

The special session of the New Mexico legislature which was to have been called by Governor Larrazolo for January 13, has been postponed until some time later in the month or early in February.

The cause of the change in the plan for the call of the special session is stated by the governor to be the necessity of his attendance upon a meeting of state executives of the Rocky Mountain district at which many important matters are to be taken up.

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A  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
TO ALL!  
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